Application No.: 10/823,964
Art Unit: 1647

REMARKS

Claims 1-47 are pending in this application and are subject to a restriction requirement. In their response the Restriction Requirement, filed on 20 February 2006, the Applicants elected the claims of Group I, claims 1-22 and 25-47, without traverse.
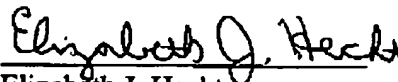
ELECTION/RESTRCTION

Subsequent to their response being filed, the Applicants received a communication from the office dated 29 March 2006. This communication states that the Applicants' response to the restriction requirement was not fully responsive, as they did not respond to the two species election requirements. The Applicants apologize to the Examiner for this omission, which they did inadvertently and without deceptive intent.

The species election requirement is in two parts, part A and part B. Part A pertains to the eight (8) different IL-18 polypeptide sequences that Claims 7 and 9 recite (*i.e.*, SEQ ID NOs:1 and 4-10. For part A of the election requirement, the Applicants elect the species of SEQ ID NO:8. Part B of the species election pertains to the twenty-three (23) different water-soluble polymers listed in Claims 11 and 38. For part B of the election requirement, the Applicants elect the species of methoxy polyethylene maleimide, MW 20,000. The Applicants believe that they have now responded fully to the species election requirements.

The Applicants reserve the right to prosecute, in one or more patent applications, the claims to non-elected inventions, the claims as originally filed, and any other claims supported by the specification. If it would advance the prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to confer with the Applicants' undersigned patent attorney by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth J. Hecht
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 41,824

GlaxoSmithKline Corporation
Corporate Intellectual Property - UW2220
P.O. Box 1539
King of Prussia, PA 19406-0939
Phone (610) 270-5009 / Facsimile (610) 270-5090
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